

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

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2003 Regular Session
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By: **Senator Hollinger (Chairman, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee) and Senators Frosh and Stoltzfus (Chesapeake Bay Commission)**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2003
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: February 13, 2003

RESOLUTION NO. _____

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Sewage Treatment Plants - Nitrogen Reduction Technology - Federal**
3 **Funding**

4 FOR the purpose of urging the Congress of the United States to enact certain
5 legislation in support of certain funding for the installation of certain nitrogen
6 reduction technology in certain sewage treatment plants.

7 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries are national treasures that
8 play a vital role in many sectors of Maryland's economy, including the commercial
9 seafood, recreational fishing, and tourism industries; and

10 WHEREAS, While significant progress has been made in restoring the
11 Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, they remain in a significantly degraded
12 condition; and

13 WHEREAS, Nitrogen pollution, the most serious problem facing water quality
14 in the Bay today, results in excessive algae growth that clouds water, depletes oxygen,
15 and severely impacts vital bay grasses, young fish, and crabs; and

16 WHEREAS, Maryland is a signatory to the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, in
17 which the State pledged significant reduction of nitrogen pollution, a reduction that
18 would be sufficient to remove the Chesapeake Bay from the United States
19 Environmental Protection Agency's impaired waters list by 2010; and

20 WHEREAS, Upgrading sewage treatment plants, which currently contribute 61
21 million pounds of nitrogen annually to the Bay, is the single most cost-effective step
22 we can take to reduce significantly the amount of nitrogen pollution; and

1 WHEREAS, Sewage treatment plants in Maryland discharge up to 25
2 milligrams of nitrogen per liter of wastewater, while current technology allows that
3 discharge to be reduced to only 3 milligrams per liter; and

4 WHEREAS, United States Senators Paul Sarbanes and Barbara Mikulski have
5 introduced legislation to provide funding to allow Bay watershed sewage treatment
6 plants to reduce their nitrogen pollution substantially by installing nitrogen
7 reduction technology at no cost to the plants, the State, or ratepayers; now, therefore,
8 be it

9 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
10 Congress of the United States be urged to enact legislation during the 108th Congress
11 in support of funding for the installation of nitrogen reducing technology by
12 Chesapeake Bay watershed sewage treatment plants; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
14 Legislative Services to Vice President Richard B. Cheney, President of the United
15 States Senate, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Speaker J. Dennis
16 Hastert, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, House Office
17 Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A.
18 Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives
19 Wayne T. Gilchrest, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R.
20 Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and
21 Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the
22 Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V.
23 Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Michael E.
24 Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.